



Elton Primary School & Nursery

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Headteacher – Mr Kevin Manning

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Dear Parent/Carer

That's the end of the first half of summer term: when we come back it will be June – the year is flying by! We've had lots of fun activities in school this half term as regular visitors to our Twitter page will know. We've had a big push recently on each class posting more on Twitter and hopefully you're all enjoying seeing the fun activities and great work that children experience each day. While I'm talking about enjoying school experiences, can I give a big thank you to all the parents who have attended stay and learn sessions this term. I know the teachers love having so many parents attend; the children are always excited to show off their skills and the feedback has been great!

This half term is always a very busy one for Year Two and Year Six children as they undertake their end of key stage national SATS tests. The children have worked so hard all year and their attitudes and effort towards their work has been superb. The SATS scores take a while to come back to school as they are externally marked in Year Six. The results of the tests will be sent home with reports later in the year – reports will go home for all year groups on the 12th of July.

This term the children have had several adventures outside of school. Year Six celebrated the end of the SATS with a class visit to Knowsley Safari Park. Reception and Year One had a great day at Delamere Forest where they completed the Gruffalo trail and built some dens. Year Two spent a night out on their residential at Foxhowl in Delamere which included my favourite activity – toasting marshmallows on a camp fire!

There have also been lots of fun adventures in and around school. Year Five got to ride the streets of Elton over several days as part of their 'Bikeability' training. While Danielle, our sports coach for the summer term, has delivered some superb PE lessons in every year group and has led some brilliant lunch time sports sessions too! Cycling, different sports in PE and athletic dinner times are all ways that our children can ensure they clock up an active hour every day!

This term saw our Year One class sign up for the '30 Days Wild' challenge and our school has hosted a range of wildlife this term. Reception class hosted an egg incubator and got to witness a clutch of chicks hatching from their eggs – the only disappointing part was when I was banned from naming them all after the Liverpool Squad! Year One has become home to Fish and Chips our two school goldfish, and Nursery have their own hungry caterpillars living in their classroom. Fortunately Year Six decided against their original idea of bringing a lion back from Knowsley to be their class pet!



One big announcement that I'm delighted to make today is that Miss Roberts has been appointed full time Deputy Head. As you know, she has been undertaking the role superbly in an acting role since September and I'm sure you'll all echo my congratulations to her on her full time appointment.

Another announcement that I'm pleased to make is that Terri Brown has become our new parent governor. She will join Lynsey Roberts who also returned to our governing body earlier this year.

Speaking of our governors, I need to give a big thanks to Reverend Ruth and her friends who have been delivering some fantastic assemblies to the whole school this term. The children have loved the interactive assemblies and they have added a sparkle to our Friday afternoons.

Another one of our governors who has been busy recently is Clare Wright. Clare, along with her Friends of Elton partner Louise Hardwick, have been busy preparing for the grand opening of their new project - the 'Parent and Baby Toddler Group'. The first session will be on the 4th June and will take place from 9:30-11:30 every Tuesday and Wednesday morning throughout the whole year. The sessions will cost just £1.50 per family and will include drinks and snacks. Although hosted in school, it will be run independently by Clare and Louise as a not for profit enterprise. For more information, please contact Clare or Louise on friendsofelton@gmail.com or via their Facebook or Twitter pages.

Sticking to the theme of our younger members of the community, our school nursery will be running some open sessions in June. There is a session on Thursday 6th June from 4:30 to 6:00; and another session on Saturday 8th June from 10:00 to 12:00. Please contact the school office or Mrs Wynn for more details.

Before finishing this letter, I just wanted to mention some information around attendance and holidays. I've had lots of questions about term time holidays recently. Our school attendance policy can be found on our website and the council's information about fines can be found on the webpage: <https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/education-and-learning/early-years-and-childcare/education-welfare-service/term-time-holidays.aspx>

The main points are:

- "Following guidance from the DfE the Head Teacher on receipt of a written request for an absence of leave from a parent/carer will consider whether the circumstances of the request are 'exceptional'... a leave of absence during term time for the purposes of a holiday **is not normally considered to qualify as exceptional.**
- If a leave of absence goes ahead after a request for approval has been declined, the absence will be recorded...as unauthorised. Should an unauthorised leave of absence be of **duration of 10 consecutive school sessions (ie five school days) or more,** ... the local authority will issue a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) to each of the child's parents/carers.
- The penalty amount paid within 21 days of the FPN being issued is £60 per parent, per child. After 21 days but before 28 days of the FPN being issued is £120 per parent, per child."

If anyone ever has any questions about attendance or holidays please contact either our attendance officer Ella Jackson or me.

Finally there's just space for me to wish everyone a nice half term – let's hope the sun stays out for the week – I hope to see lots of you at the 'Friends of Elton Quiz Night' on the first Friday back (I dread to think what costume I'll be made to wear as quiz master this time). Remember the first Monday back is an INSET day and so school is closed for the children.

Mr Manning
Headteacher

